

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 896

By Turner M

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Gilbert Drake of Madison.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Gilbert Drake; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Drake was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Drake, Gilbert Drake graduated from Goodpasture Christian School in 1979 and later attended Lipscomb University, from which he graduated in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Management and Economics; and

WHEREAS, after graduation, Mr. Drake worked in the insurance and aviation industries, in which fields his outstanding performance earned him the position of director of sales and marketing for Averitt Air, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, starting in 2004, Gilbert Drake served with acumen and alacrity as the President of his alma mater, Goodpasture Christian School, where he earned the respect of his colleagues and students for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, while Mr. Drake presided over the school, he strenuously worked toward its improvement and progress. His leadership helped the school earn the triple accreditation from the Southern Association of Independent Schools, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and the National Christian School Association; increase the focus on spirituality by the addition of daily devotionals; emphasize the importance of technology by providing teachers with laptop computers, creating a new elementary computer lab, installing smart boards in many classrooms, and utilizing online means of grade documentation so that parents and students could continually monitor performance in all subjects; add dual enrollment college courses

which high school students take classes from Lipscomb University; found the Parent Teacher Organization; and improve and renovate the campus' grounds and buildings; and

WHEREAS, the exceptional quality of his contributions to the school are evinced by the achievements of Goodpasture Christian School students during his tenure: The students earned more than eight million dollars in college scholarships, raised more than one million dollars for the needy of Middle Tennessee through food drives, and the 2007 baseball team, the 2005, 2006, and 2007 softball teams, and the 2005 golf team all won state titles; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Drake was an active and devout member of the Old Hickory Church of Christ, which he served faithfully for many years as a Sunday school teacher and as leader of the youth group; and

WHEREAS, Gilbert Drake was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Drake enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of twenty-four years, Janet Gholson Drake, and was the proud parent of Hannah and Leah Drake; and

WHEREAS, Gilbert Drake leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Gilbert Drake, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Drake.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.